चम्बल। चम्बल नदी पर 150 मीटर का हाडिल वाटर फाल है। चम्बल पर मुरैना डिस्ट्रिक्ट में रहू घाट है, वहां 150 मीटर का फाल है। चम्बल 12 महीने बहने वाली नदी है, जिसका आपने विवरण नहीं दिया। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप उस नदी का सर्वे कराकर के हाइडल प्रोजेक्ट का लाभ उठाना चाहेंगी? सर्वे कराएंगी तो कब तक कराएंगी और नहीं कराएंगी तो क्यों नहीं कराएंगी और अब तक क्यों नहीं कराया और लिस्ट में क्यों नहीं दिया?

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल: मेरे पास अभी इसकी जानकारी नहीं है, मैं इकट्ठी करके उन्हें भेज दूंगी।

श्री अजीत जोगी: उपसभापति महोदया, मंत्री महोदया ने अपने उत्तर में स्वीकार किया है कि मध्य प्रदेश में पन-बिजली उत्पादन की बहुत बड़ी क्षमता है, लगभग 3,000 मेगावाट उससे उत्पादित किया जा सकता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से दो ऐसी परियोजनाओं के बारे में पूछना चाहता हूं जिनमें पन-बिजली उत्पादन करने के लिए काफी राशि व्यय हो चुकी है और दोनों में कार्य बहुत लम्बे अरसे से लम्बित पड़ा हुआ है। इनमें एक है बाणसागर परियोजना, जिनमें पन-बिजली का उत्पादन होगा और दूसरी है बोधघाट परियोजना, जो बस्तर जिले में है, जिसमें पन-बिजली का उत्पादन होगा। दोनों में बहुत राशि व्यय हो चुकी है। करीब 12—15 साल से दोनों परियोजनाओं का कार्य लम्बित पड़ा हुआ है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इन दोनों कार्यों को कब तक पूरा कर दिया जाएगा? नए प्रोजेक्ट आप ने लें, यह तो समझ में आता है लेकिन जो पुराने प्रोजक्ट हैं जिनमें काफी पैसा लग चुका है, उनको शीघ्र पूरा करने के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं-बाण सागर परियोजना और बोध घाट परियोजना?

श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल: बोध सागर परियोजना जिसको इंदिरा सरोवर परियोजना भी कहते हैं, के बारे में यह कहना चाहती हूं कि यह योजना एक हजार मोघावाट की है और इसके बारे में जो सेंक्शन देनी है वह जरूरी सेंक्शन प्रोजेक्ट को 24 फरवरी, 1979 को दी गई थी। लेकिन एंवॉयरमेंट और फोरेस्ट कंजर्वेशन की ओर से उनको पूरा क्लियरेंस नहीं मिला है, परमिशन नहीं मिली है। इसलिए योजन का काम आगे नहीं चल पाया।...(व्यवधान)

जहां तक बाण सागर परियोजना की बात है, उसके डिटेल्स मेरे पास नहीं है, वह मैं इकट्ठी करके भेज दूंगी।

श्री अजीत जोगी: मैडम्, 15 साल हो रहा है इस योजना को।

उपसभापति: 15 साल से यह मंत्री नहीं थी।

श्री अजीत जोगी: कम से कम अब तो पूरा करवा दीजिए।

उपसभापति: बैठिए-बैठिए।

Deteriorating Fiscal Situation of India

*122. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a Press news-item captioned "Government heading for a debt trap: Economist" as reported in 'Statesman' dated 11th July, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government's fiscal situation is deteriorating day by day;

(c) the total debt on India as on 1st July, 1995; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to minimise its expenditures etc.?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir; the fiscal deficit in 1995-96 is budgeted at 5.5% of GDP, as compared to 6.7% in 1994-95 (R.E.) and an average of 8.2% in the second half of the 1980s.

(c) The position can be given as at the year-end and not at the mid

point of the year. The total debt and other liabilities of the Government of India outstanding at the end of 1994-95 Revised Estimates amounted to Rs. 632572 crore.

(d) Government resorts to borrowings whenever the non-debt receipts fall short of the expenditure. Apart from obligatory and committed liabilities of the Government, like plan expenditure, interest payments, Defence, food and fertilizer subsidies internal security, pensions, transfers to States in terms of Finance Commission's awards etc. the growth of other items of expenditure have been generally restrained.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Madam, the Government of India's total debt is steeply mounting year after year. The total amount of debt will rise to about Rs. 6,50,000 crores by the end of the current financial year which will be equal to more than 60 per cent of the GNP and it is pretty high. It appears that the Government has been borrowing funds beyond limits every year to make a spending spree which is a costly luxury. A developing country like India can ill-afford such a luxury. The Finance Ministry it appears, is fast losing its grip over the over-all level of expenditure being incurred by the other Ministries. As a result, the Finance Minister's estimate regarding fiscal deficit has gone astray, has gone away for the past two years by a wide margin. In 1993-94, for example, Dr. Singh had forcast a fiscal deficit of Rs. 37,000 crores which finally turned out to be Rs. 60,000 crores. Likewise, the deficit had exceeded the estimate for the year 1994-95. In 1995-96, the fiscal deficit might be close to Rs. 71,000 crores or 69 per cent of the GNP. There was an estimate of 55 per cent as forcast by the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget and as stated by him in his reply. Against this background, my first question is (a) Is it a fact that looking to our repayment schedule of the total external assistance to be received by the country only 11 per cent of the assistance will be available for productive investment and commercial purposes while the remaining 89 per cent will be used for repayment of past loans and payment of interest thereon.? (b)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer the first question.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: (a) and (b) Madam, this is done by everyone.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You asked for two supplementaries, let him answer one, it is such a long question.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: No, it is connected with that. (b) Is it a fact that a huge portion of amount that we received by way of assistance will be spent for repayment of past loans? Will not development projects suffer?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, I had understood this question to deal with the entire borrowings of the Central Government, both internal and external. But the hon. Member, in his supplementary, has raised issues only relating to the external debt.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: My second question is there...

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: With regard to the external debt of the country, I have answered question on the floor of this House on several occasions. There is no doubt that we face a difficult debt situation both on the internal front as well as the external front. But, it has been the effort of this Government in the last four years to bring the system gradually under control. And as a measures of that, Madam, the fiscal deficit of the Central Government which

was 8.4 per cent in 1990-91, we brought it down to 5.9 per cent in 1991-92. In 1992-93, we brought it down to 5.7 per cent. In 1993-94, as the hon. Member has said, there was a slippage; the deficit went up to 7.7 per cent. But, in 1994-95, it did come down to 6.7 per cent. And of this, nearly Rs. 5,000 crores, at least 0.4 per cent, is on account of additional payments to the States on small savings over which the Central Government has no control. Therefore, I respectfully submit that even though the overall fiscal situation remains difficult, if you judge all these things, in terms of proportions of GDP, the system is bit by bit improving, even though I would be the first one to admit that there is scope for further improvement.

Madam, the hon. Member also raised this question about external debt of the country. The external debt of the country which is about 32 per cent of our GDP is not onerous, I would say. This is not to say that we should be encouraging piling up of our debt. In fact, ever since our Government came into office, the pace of expansion of debt has gone down very substantially, and that should be obvious from what has happened to India's curent account. When our Government came into office, the current account deficit in 1990-91 was about 3.4 per cent of our GDP, the counter-part of that was borrowing. Last year, the current account deficit was less than half a percentage of our GDP. The external debt is growing but it is growing at a much smaller pace than ever before. And I feel that if we persist with this strategy that we have adopted that instead of debt-creating types of flows, we encourage direct investment, and simultaneously if we strengthen the comptitiveness of our economy and improve our exports, I think, we can gradually bring the system under greater control.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied or do you still want to ask another question?

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Madam, I have heard the hon. Minister and he has not been able to answer my query as to whether 89 per cent of the loan that we receive from the foreign countries is paid back only by way of defaulting payment. This is a figure which, I am sure, I will be able to get from the Minister later on because I am a Member of the Consultative Committee. Madam, my second question is: Has the Government made any long-term plan to contain national borrowings within reasonable limits? That is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is: Has the Finance Ministry coordinated with other Ministries to see how the expenditure could be curtailed and in which direction?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, as far as the long-term plan is concerned, we have been aiming at bringing the fiscal deficit progressively down. And in the medium-term, in the next three to four years, our objective should be to bring the fiscal deficit to no more than 3.5 to 4 per cent. Similarly, with regard to the external debt situation by the year 2,000 our objective is that we should gradually bring down the debt service ratio, which is a usual way to measure the burden of external debt. to no more than 20 per cent. We do have a medium-term perspective. But there are always unexpected events which interfere with the realisation of the mediumterm goal.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam Deputy Chairperson, the answer to Starred Question No.122 has to be read with the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 901 as it gives more details about the debt position, about the financial position, of the Government of India. The Finance Minister is concerned

about it. We are also very much concerned about the growing debt, without any limit placed on borrowings, which we have been demanding since long. During 1995-96, we are going to borrow Rs. 59,000 crores more, as per the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 901. Madam Deputy Chairperson, I have a lot of questions to ask. But I cannot be inhuman and discourteous to my very esteemed colleague and old friend since 1977, who is running a temperature of 103 degrees. Therefore, I have decided to forego my right to put a supplementary. Thank you every much for giving me this chance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I wish everybody did like that. (*Interruptions*) Who is running temperature? Is it you, Mr. Agarwal, or, is it Mr. Manmohan Singh?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: It is Mr. Manmohan Singh, Madam.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I can answer his supplementary, Madam. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: As he is not well, I forego my right to put a supplementary. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he is not well, we can go to the next question. Later on, we can have a full-fledged discussion on this subject. On some other day, we can have a discussion on this subject if the House so agrees.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, we can have a discussion on it later on. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When the hon. Minister is in a position to do so and if the House and the hon. Chairman so agree, we can have a discussion on this subject at some later date.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Just one point, Madam. Before such a discussion takes place, we would like the hon. Finance Minister to prepare a note on our external debt position so that the debate could be meaningful. I know the hon. Finance Minister is very much conerned about that. Therefore, I hope he would make available to us a note on this subject.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: There should be an Half-an-hour Discussion, Madam. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: We should have all the information before us. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think the suggestion made is good.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: A White Paper has to come. I do not know what the position is about it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If a White Paper has to come, it can come. This is a good suggestion.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Madam, I had already assured in this House that we would shortly be bringing out a White Paper on the external debt situation.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 123.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Madam instead of a White Paper, he should bring out a Black Paper so that...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It would be the reverse then. It would be a Black Paper and we would have to print on it is white. (*Interruptions*) Now, Question No. 123.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the hon. Finance Minister should be permitted to leave the House. Question Nos. 123 and 124 which stand in his name can be postponed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I can answer the questions, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Manmohan Singhji, the House is, sometimes, generous. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: If the hon. Finance Minister is not well, he should be allowed to go. I think he should take rest.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When the House is agreeing to your leaving the House, please leave the House. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: All the questions which are standing in the name of the hon. Finance Minister can be postponed to next week.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That we will see as to what we should do about it. He can give it in writing. He can give the anwers in writing. Now, Question No. 125, please.

*123 [For answers, *vide* col. infra.]

*124 [For answers, *vide* col. infra.]

Expenditure Incurred on Overseas Tourism Offices

*125. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of various overseas tourism offices, country-wise during the year 1994-95;

(b) whether the Government have decided to shift some of these overseas field offices in a bid to tap emerging markets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SMT. SUKHBANS KAUR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Expenditure incurred on establishment of Overseas Tourist Offices under Department of Tourism during the year 1994-95.

Sl.No.	*Operation*	*Name of Country*	*Location of Tourist Office*	*Expenditure incurred (Ruppes in Lakhs)*
I.	America	1. USA	New York	163.40
			Los Angeles	38.69
		2. Canada	Toronto	33.19
II.	U.K.	1. U.K.	London	100.89
III.	Europe	1. Switzerland	Geneva	56.71
		2. France	Paris	134.98
		3. Germany	Frankfurt	168.63
		4. Sweden	Stockholm	49.50
		5. Spain	Madrid	18.35
		6. Italy	Milan	41.15
		7. Netherlands	Amsterdam	66.33